

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 08/23/00

**TO:** POWTS Plan Reviewers  
Wastewater Specialists  
County Code Administrators  
Other Interested Parties

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**SUBJECT:** Effluent Distribution When an Existing Treatment Tank is Replaced With a Component That Produces Higher Quality Effluent  
s. Comm 83.03(1), Wis. Adm. Code  
s. Comm 83.44(5)(b)1., Wis. Adm. Code

A question has arisen, regarding situations where an existing POWTS system is modified to include a component that produces higher quality effluent that meets the criteria specified in s. Comm 83.44(5)(b)1., Wis. Adm. Code for pressurized distribution. Specifically, does this type of modification require abandonment of the existing gravity fed distribution cell even if it is code compliant?

Section Comm 83.03(1)(a), Wis. Adm. Code, states: “a new POWTS shall conform with this chapter”. However, s. Comm 83.03(1)(b), Wis. Adm. Code, states: “A modification to an existing POWTS, including the replacement, alteration or addition of materials, appurtenances or POWTS components, shall require that the modification conform to this chapter”.

The intent of the code was to require that new distribution cells that receive higher quality effluent be designed to incorporate pressure distribution. A modification to an existing system must also conform with the new code. However, existing distribution cells that are code compliant based on the code that was in effect at the time they were originally installed do not have to be abandoned and replaced with a pressure distribution network. This includes existing distribution cells that are code compliant but may be ponded. Many of these ponded cells can benefit from the introduction of higher quality effluent.

Future revisions to the Comm 83 code will clarify this issue.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call. Thanks!